

REMARKS

As a result of the forgoing amendments, claim 1 has been canceled and claims 2, 4-6 and 8-26 remain pending with claims 3 and 7 being withdrawn. Claim 8 has been amended to remove the limitation that the attachment be stable *in vivo*, which was added in Applicant's last amendment and stood rejected as being new matter. Claims 2-4, 6, 10, 11, 16, 17 and 22-26 have been amended to remove dependencies on canceled claim 1 and replace them, where necessary, with dependence on claim 8. Claim 9 has been further amended to place a period at the end of the claim. Claim 17 has been further amended according to the Examiner's suggestion to correct the claim's grammar. Claims 22 and 23 have been further amended to clarify the material combined with the conjugate during the step of admixing.

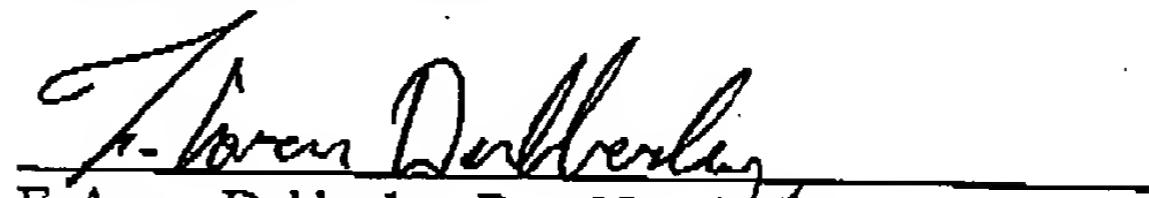
Entry of these amendments after the final Office Action is appropriate because they place the application in condition for allowance, or, at the very least, reduce the number of issues for appeal. In particular, these amendments remove from all pending claims the limitation that was the basis of all new matter, written description and enablement rejections in the final Office Action (a limitation requiring the conjugate to be stable *in vivo*, see pages 3-7 of the final Office Action). Furthermore, these amendments make all pending claims depend on claims 8 and/or 9, which were not rejected in any manner over the various prior art cited in the final Office Action. Accordingly, entry of these amendments after a final Office Action is respectfully requested and appropriate.

09/627,787
After-final Response

page 10 of 11
October 18, 2004

The application is now in condition for allowance, and Applicants respectfully request prompt notice thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


F. Aaron Dubberley, Reg. No. 41,001
Attorney/Agent for Applicant

Aventis Pharmaceuticals Inc.
Patent Department
Route #202-206 / P.O. Box 6800
Bridgewater, NJ 08807-0800
Telephone (908) 231-3737
Telefax (908) 231-2626

Aventis Docket No. DEAV1999/L045 US NP

09/627,787
After-final Response

page 11 of 11
October 18, 2004